



**Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Texas**

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SIX TSA EMPLOYEES CHARGED WITH MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS

HOUSTON – Six Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees have been charged with lying about their past criminal histories during the employment application process to obtain their positions as Transportation Security Officers, announced United States Attorney Donald J. DeGabrielle. In separate indictments returned by a federal grand jury today, Lance Castillo, 25, Christopher Gaona, 35, Roy Burt Ray, Jr. 40, Larry Ratcliff, 38, and Jenó Mouton, 27, all of Houston, and Gilbert Madrigal III, 31, of Corpus Christi, Texas, are each charged with making material false statements to federal law enforcement officials in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001. Warrants for the arrest of the defendants are outstanding.

When individuals apply for positions with TSA, they are required to complete several forms, one of which asks the applicants to answer the question, "Have you been arrested or charged with an offense in the last 7 years?", and to list those arrests or convictions, if any.

The indictment naming Lance Castillo accuses him of making a false statement by denying he had been arrested in the past seven years, when he had been allegedly arrested for the offense of aggravated assault in 2003.

Gilbert Madrigal III is accused of making a false statement when he denied he had been arrested or charged with an offense in the last seven years, when he had allegedly been arrested and charged with the offense of possession of a controlled substance in 2000.

Christopher Gaona is charged with two counts of making false statements on two different forms, on two different days. The indictment alleges he lied when he denied he had been arrested or charged in the last seven years, when he had been arrested and charged with offense of unlawful possession of a controlled substance in 2004. The second charge arises from Gaona's alleged failure to disclose that he was, at the time he signed the form, under criminal charges, when he had been placed on deferred adjudication for five years in 2005 for that offense.

Roy Burt Ray, Jr. is accused of making a false statement by denying that he had been convicted of any offense in the last seven years, when he had been convicted of reckless conduct within seven years of the time that he signed the form.

Jenó Mouton is charged with two counts of making false statements on two different

forms, on two different days. The indictment alleges Mouton lied when he denied having been convicted within the last seven years, because he had been convicted of the offense of evading arrest within that time frame when he signed the form. The second charge arises from Mouton's alleged failure to disclose the same arrest on a different form, on a different day.

Larry Ratcliff is charged with one count of making a false statement by denying that he had been convicted of any offense in the last seven years, when in fact he had been convicted of assault within seven years of the time that he signed the form.

A conviction for making a materially false statement to a federal law enforcement officer carries a maximum statutory penalty of five years in federal prison, without parole, and a \$250,000 fine.

The investigation leading to the indictment of these six defendants is part of the Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General's continuing effort to ensure airport security. The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Gary Cobe.

Indictments are formal accusations of criminal conduct, not evidence. Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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